(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number and details of people waiting for job against the provision for providing employment to the land oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has not stopped giving jobs to the land losers.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

(c) As reporterd by Coal India Limited, 97 cases are under process for giving employment to the land losers. Details are as under:—

Name of the Coalfields	No. of cases pending
Talcher Coalfield	48
IB Valley Coalfield	49
Total	97

Fire in Coal Mines

256. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of coal destroyed annually during last three years, due to fire;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of fire in some coal mines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of various steps taken to extinguish fire and to prevent the coal mines from fire incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Fires in coal mines below ground are dealt with by cutting off the oxygen supply by isolation stoppings and muti-filling and dozing surface area above the fire zones. Based on the analysis of the atmosphere behind the isolation stoppings when it is ascertained that the fire has died out, the area is re-opened and the coal is recovered. The amount of coal destroyed in coal fires during the last three years in negligible.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply in part (b).

(d) Where the underground fire cannot be immediately controlled it is extinguished by taking following steps:—

(1) The area is isolated by building isolation stoppings.

(2) By blanketing on the surface by filling mutty & dozing it to avoid air entering from surface cracks.

Steps taken for prevention of fire incidents in underground mines:-

(i) Compliance of provisions made under Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1957.

(ii) Compliance of recommendations made by Director General of Mines Safety through various circulars issued from time to time.

(iii) Working the coal seams in panels with appropriate size keeping in mind the incubation period.

(iv) Regular monitoring of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and temperature in depillaring districts for early detection of heating.

(v) Cleaning of fallen coal.

(vi) Inspection of old workings and depillaring districts on idle days.

(vii) Surface blanketing to prevent breathing of air into areas from which coal has been extracted etc.

Nickel Deposits

257. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Nickel deposits have been discovered;

(b) the expected Nickel areas in Sukinda Valley in Orissa;

(c) the steps taken to extract Nickel from that area;

(d) whether any Nickel extraction plant is proposed to be set up at Sukinda; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (e) Major occurrences of Nickel are found in the Sukinda belt of Orissa.